

A b s t r a c t

Apparatus for inline measurement of material removal during a polishing or grinding process including:

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a. a substantially circular rotatable grinding or polishing pad; and

b. a sample holder; and

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c. a sample with a top, a bottom and one or more side surfaces;

the sample holder being arranged to hold the bottom surface of the sample in contact with the pad and the sample holder being connected to a moving device to move the sample to a position at least partially over the rim of the pad, during at least a part of the process, the apparatus also including a detecting device for sampling the distances between a reference mark and a target area in the sample and a plane defined by the bottom surface of the sample during the process.

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